

From: Kevin Mounts
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a long-time professional software engineer living in Seattle, I have been privy to a great deal of information about Microsoft's behavior in the software industry, through careful attention to various news media, discussions with other software engineers, including those working at Microsoft, and personal experience. What I know of Microsoft's business practices leads me to the unavoidable conclusion that the company is severely anti-competitive, has been a constant hindrance to progress and innovation in the field of software development, and will not be deterred in the least in some of its more egregious, if less public, practices by the proposed settlement.

Settling with Microsoft on these terms is the business equivalent of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's 1938 statement that he had ensured "peace in our time" through his settlement with Hitler over the Sudetenland.

Personally, I don't feel that anything short of liquidation would provide adequate remedy for the harm Microsoft has done to the industry, but as that is unlikely to happen, a break-up along lines similar to Judge Jackson's proposal would be the minimum that would have a noticeable effect.

Kevin Mounts
Mahana Enterprises
kevin@mahana.com